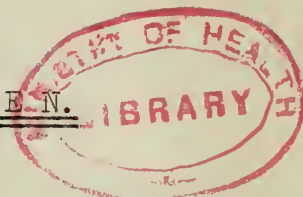


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BOROUGH OF HALESOWEN.



ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

for

1940

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Halesowen.
Mrs. Harrison and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my report
on the health of the Borough of Halesowen for the year 1940.

The general health of the district
has been satisfactory. The number of births exceeds the deaths
by 178. The birth rate is slightly higher (15.9) than that of
the average for England and Wales (14.6), while the adjusted death
rate of 13.6 is lower than the average for England and Wales which
is 14.3.

The Infant Mortality rate was 54.51,
there being 32 deaths of children under one year of age.

During the whole year the department
was understaffed because of War Service. Miss. L. S. Goode joined
the clerical staff of the department in May.

I would like to thank Mr. Lea and his
staff for their willing help and co-operation at all times.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

RICHARD L. CORLETT.

Medical Officer of Health.

MEMBERS of the Council of the Borough of Halesowen,

Mayor:

Alderman H. J. Cox J. P.

Deputy Mayor:

Alderman J. B. Downing, O. B. E., J. P., C. C.

The remaining eighteen members were the same as set out in the report of 1938.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health:

R. L. Corlett, M. D., D. P. H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector; Cleansing Superintendent;
Inspector under the Shops and Petroleum Acts.

Ernest Lea, M.S.I.A., A.M.I.P.C.
(Certified Meat and Foods Inspector)

Senior Additional Sanitary Inspector:

L. J. Hill, M.S.I.A.
(Certified Meat and Foods Inspector:
Certified Smoke Inspector)

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

E. W. Burrows, Cert. S.I.B.
On military service.

Senior Clerk:

F. D. Hipkiss. (On military service).
A. R. Humphries.

Clerk:

Miss. L. S. Goode. (Appointed May 1940).

STATISTICAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The area of the Borough remains 5,247 acres. The population at the census 1921 was 31,058 and estimated to mid 1940 was 36,500. The number of inhabited houses was 10,911. The rateable value was £146,777. The sum represented by a penny rate is £524. The population figures show a decrease of 300 on the 1939 figure, which may be accounted for by calling up of men for service with the armed forces.

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT.

The comments contained in reports of previous years on this subject need no further explanation this year.

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.

(a) Live Births.

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate ...	310	264	574
Illegitimate..	6	7	13
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	316	271	587
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Birth Rate per 1,000 e. r. p.	15.9
Birth Rate for England and Wales	14.6

(b) Still Births.

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate ...	11	10	21
Illegitimate..	-	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	11	10	21
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Rate per 1,000 births (live and still	36.08
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DEATHS.

Males	213
Females	196

409

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 e.r.p.	11.2
Adjusted Death Rate	13.2
Death Rate for England and Wales	...	...	...	...	14.3

Deaths from Puerperal Causes.

It is very gratifying to record that no deaths from puerperal or other maternal causes occurred during 1940. I regard it as a matter for congratulation that such a trying year should show such excellent results.

The Maternal Mortality Rates for England and Wales were:

Puerperal sepsis	0.52
Other puerperal causes	1.64

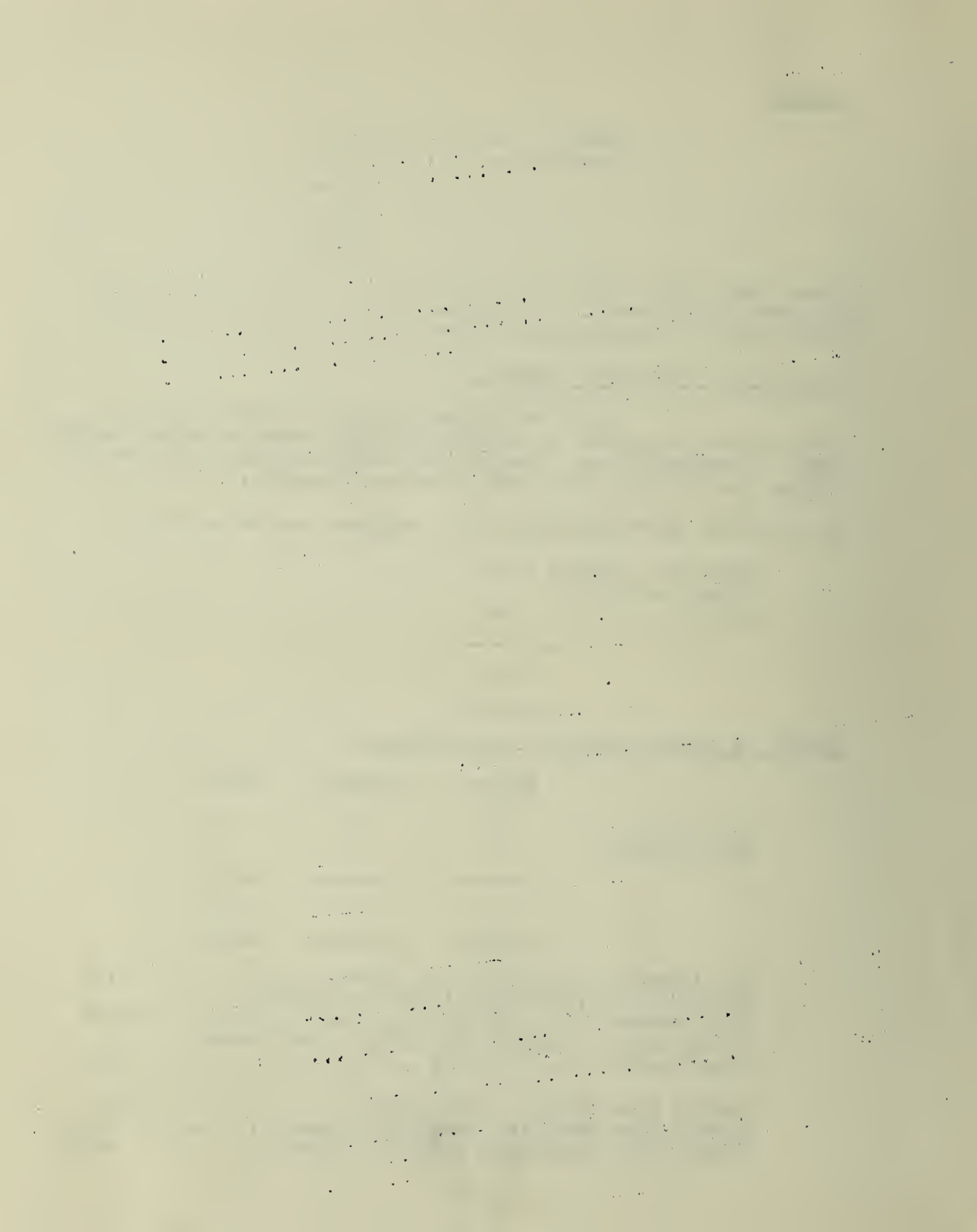
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Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age.

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	19	12	31
Illegitimate	1	-	1
	<hr/> 20	<hr/> 12	<hr/> 32

All infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	54.51
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	54.35
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	76.92

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil.
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	1 male.
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	1 male.



CAUSES OF DEATH.

	Male	Female
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid fevers	-	-
2. Cerebro-spinal fever	-	-
3. Scarlet Fever	-	-
4. Whooping Cough	1	-
5. Diphtheria	1	-
6. Tuberculosis of the respiratory system ...	8	9
7. Other forms of tuberculosis	2	2
8. Syphilitic diseases	1	1
9. Influenza	3	1
10. Measles	-	-
11. Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis	-	-
12. Acute infectious encephalitis.	-	-
13. Cancer of buccal cavity and oesophagus(men)	-	-
13. Cancer of uterus (women only)	-	2
14. Cancer of stomach and duodenum	5	4
15. Cancer of the breast	-	5
16. Cancer of all other sites	24	16
17. Diabetes	1	6
18. Intra-cranial vascular lesions	16	19
19. Heart Disease	41	42
20. Other diseases of the circulatory system .	6	5
21. Bronchitis	25	15
22. Pneumonia	12	15
23. Other respiratory diseases	7	2
24. Ulceration of stomach or duodenum	5	-
25. Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1	-
26. Appendicitis	-	3
27. Other digestive diseases	5	2
28. Nephritis	3	5
29. Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis	-	-
30. Other maternal causes	-	-
31. Premature birth	7	2
32. Congenital malformations birth injury and infantile disease	8	2
33. Suicide	2	1
34. Road traffic accidents	6	-
35. Other violent causes	7	11
36. All other causes	16	26
	<hr/> 213 <hr/>	<hr/> 196 <hr/>

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE BOROUGH.

The public health services generally remained as in my last pre-war report. They were quite satisfactory.

After much discussion, the decision was taken to discontinue the work of the Cottage Hospital, the decision being dictated largely by financial considerations. Accordingly the hospital was closed in the early part of the year, and patients now requiring hospital treatment are accommodated in the hospitals in Birmingham, Dudley or Stourbridge.

Maternity and Child Welfare is under the direction of the County Council.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

No outstanding circumstances merit attention in this second abbreviated report.

Smoke Abatement.

After years of unabated effort, the vicissitudes of war dictated that in the early part of the year, smoke abatement should, for all practicable purposes, be discontinued. Indeed, instructions were received from the Government that every effort should be made to increase the production of "non-harmful" smoke from all factories, as a protective screen against daylight aerial bombardment or reconnaissance.

Much comment and discussion inevitably arose from the visits of the Sanitary Inspectors to factories, regarding this subject, but the co-operation of factory owners and staffs was complete, and a report to that effect was submitted to the appropriate Ministry by the Chief Sanitary Inspector.

It is hoped that this "retrogressive" step, taken in the interests of national security, will have no permanent harmful effect when normal conditions again prevail, and the emission of smoke is once more discouraged.

Schools.

The general conditions of schools in the Borough are quite satisfactory.

HOUSING.

Particulars of work carried out in respect of Housing:

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

- (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts) 67
- (b) Number of inspections made for that purpose 67
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1935 and 1932 10
- (b) Number of inspections made for that purpose 10
- (3) Number of dwelling houses found in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 1
- (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not in all respects to be reasonably fit for human habitation 43

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:-

Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority of their Officers 22

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:- ...

A - Proceedings under section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:
 - (a) By owners 6
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners. Nil.

B - Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied 11.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:
 - (a) By owners 4.
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners ... Nil.

C - Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made 2.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil.

D - Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil.
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil.

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936, PART 4. - OVERCROWDING.

- (a) Number of dwelling-houses overcrowded at the end of the year 459
Number of families dwelling therein 721
Number of persons dwelling therein 2247
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year Nil.
- (c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year Nil.
Number of persons concerned in such cases .. Nil.
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the local authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding Nil.
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report .. Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

A. Milk Supply.

Investigations into cases of scarlet fever gave rise to the assumption that some cases might be caused by milk.

Subsequent sampling and investigation proved that the belief was unfounded.

B. Meat and Other Foods.

The inspection of meat delivered from the Central Meat Market, Birmingham was carried on, as was the inspection of the "cottager's pig," when slaughtered under licence from the local Food Office. The transport and handling of food was improved over the period of this report, and no further causes of complaint arose.

Sections C. D. E. and F. have not been the subject of any conditions worthy of note in this report.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Smallpox.

No case occurred during the year 1940.

Diphtheria.

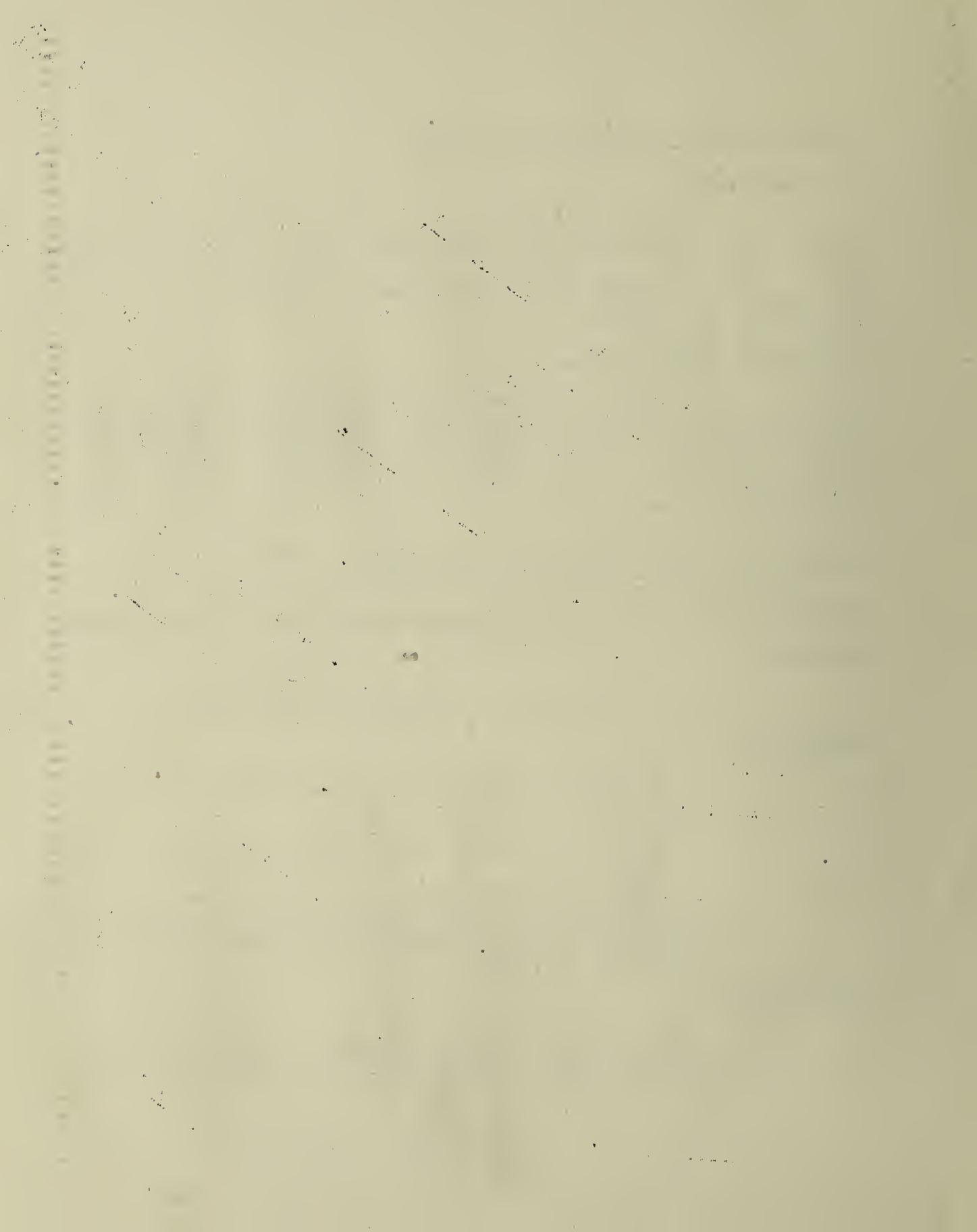
Ten cases of this disease were reported, and one death occurred during the year.

224 children were fully immunised during the year.

Three injections with T.A.M. were given to each child immunised. This makes a total of 2,641 completely immunised with this prophylactic since this work first commenced in 1935.

Scarlet Fever.

44 cases of scarlet fever were reported during 1940, of which 17 were isolated in hospital; there were no deaths.



Erysipelas.

17 cases occurred during the year, an increase of 5 on the preceeding year.

Pneumonia.

53 cases of pneumonia of all forms were reported during the year, and 27 deaths were reported.

Puerperal Pyrexia.

Six cases of this condition were reported to the County Medical Officer, the number being equal to that of 1939, though this year no deaths were recorded.

Paratyphoid.

One case was notified as Paratyphoid B. after diagnosis in a Birmingham Hospital. The patient was treated in the hospital and recovered. Investigations failed to reveal the specific cause of infection.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever (Spotted Fever).

3 cases were reported; one was removed to the Dudley Guest Hospital for treatment, the other two, both children were treated in the Childrens' Hospital, Birmingham. All cases recovered.

Food Poisoning.

No case notified.

Tuberculosis.

36 cases were registered during the year of which 26 were pulmonary. Of the total of 36 cases, 3 were re-registered after removing back to this area, and 5 were heard of otherwise than by notification.

17 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis were recorded and 4 deaths from non-pulmonary tuberculosis.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1940.

Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting my tenth annual report of the work of my department.

It was only to be expected that the difficulties met with during the year were many and varied, and often of quite a new character, but they were disposed of generally in a satisfactory manner.

The working of the cleansing department continually brought out problems of man-power, which were not in all cases settled as quickly as I would have liked, but in spite of the difficulties, no serious falling off of work was experienced, though often only working long hours attained this result.

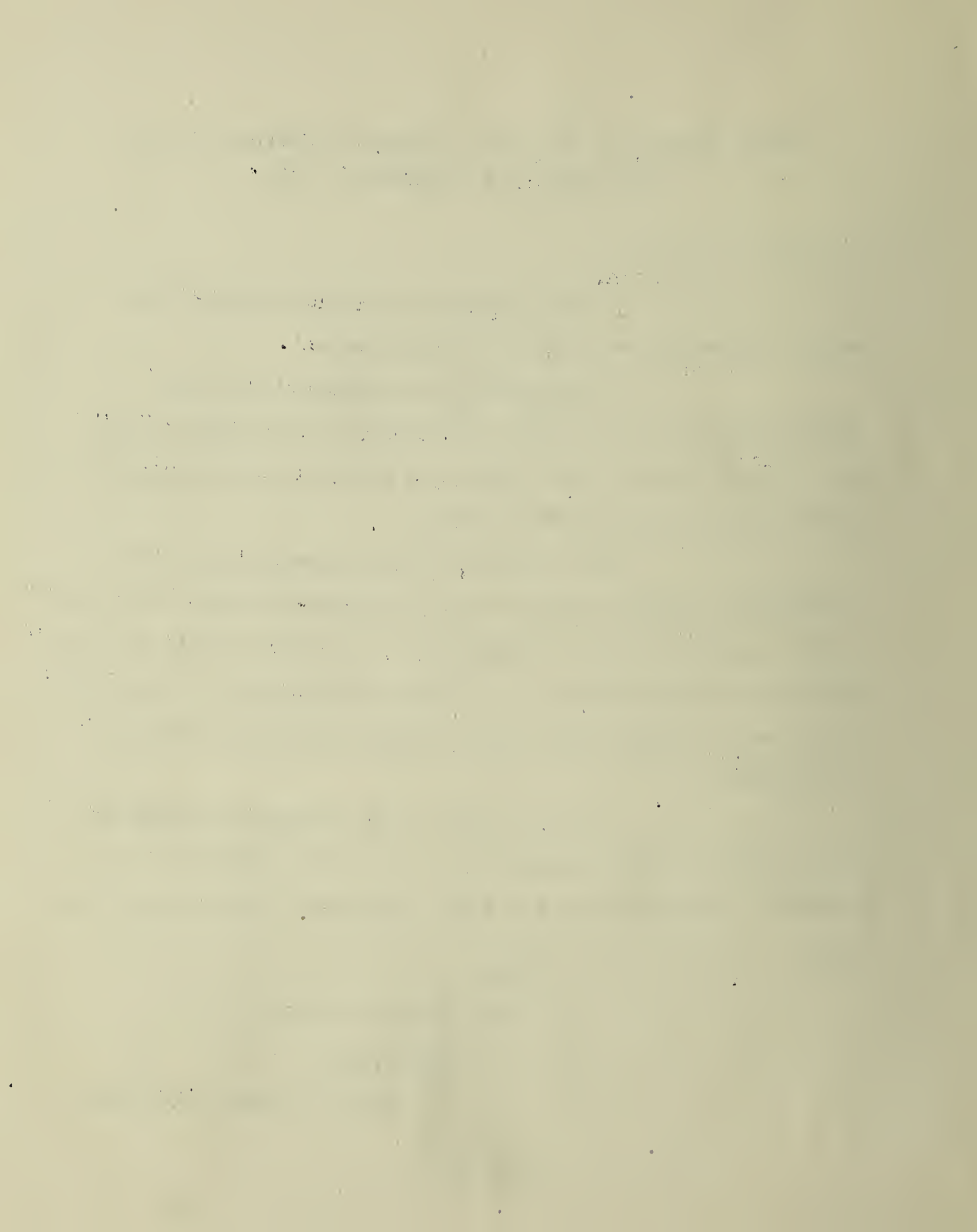
I wish to thank the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee and also the members of the staff of the department for their continued support during the year.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

ERNEST LEA.

Chief Sanitary Inspector.



Housing.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry only those houses which were "in extremis" were inspected and reported in 1940, indeed, with very depleted staff it was impossible to do otherwise.

Only one house was found to be so bad that action under section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936 was necessary, and a demolition order was made on this house.

As far as conditions permitted, the repair of houses in accordance with undertakings given to the Council was carried on, 6 houses being completed.

Infectious Diseases.

The routine subsequent to the reporting of cases of notifiable infectious diseases was carried on as usual.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk.

The general supply of milk in the district continued satisfactorily.

(b) Meat and Other Foods.

The remarks made earlier on the subject of meat inspection need no further comment.

One sample of sugar was submitted for analysis because grounds for suspicion of the genuine nature of the article existed. The sample was, however, certified genuine.

Tents, Vans and Sheds.

One case was reported of the presence of vans on an unlicensed site. These were removed on request, and visits were paid to the licensed site at intervals.

Petroleum Acts.

There were 90 licences in force at the end of 1940 for the storage of 247,037 gallons of petroleum spirit, and 4 licences authorising the keeping of 141,752 lbs. of carbide of calcium.

Public Cleansing.

The cleansing service was considerably hampered throughout the year by the lack of fit men, the increasing call on each man's time, the inability of the Department to prevent men leaving the service for more remunerative employment in industry, and by the refusal of the Ministry of Transport to sanction the purchase of a new refuse collector. It was very disappointing after much trouble and even personal interviews, to be informed that another application should be made later. It should have been apparent that the age of the vehicles in the service was such that the purchase of a new vehicle was essential.

It has been a difficult time both for the men and for the administrative staff. Often, planned schedules could not be adhered to because of the breakdown of one of the vehicles, and the position became to be further aggravated by the increasing difficulty to purchase spare parts.

However, the department maintained its refuse and salvage collections in the face of these difficulties, and the results were satisfactory.

With the introduction of the principle of compulsory collection by local authorities with a population of 10,000 and over, a publicity campaign was launched. Posters were displayed about the town and on refuse vehicles, shops were taken and used as salvage depots for parts of the town, and the W.V.S. took an active part in the operations. I must place on record here my appreciation of the very helpful co-operation of the W.V.S. in this matter.

As in my last report the essentials of costs are given for the year.

Public Cleansing Costs, 1940.

Collection.

(a) Including capital expenditure.

Gross expenditure	5,404	7	1
Gross Income	3	11	8
Nett expenditure	5,400	15	5
Nett cost per ton		9	1.6
Nett cost per 1,000 houses	501	19	7.6
Nett cost per 1,000 persons	145	3	3

(b) Excluding capital expenditure.

Nett expenditure from (a)	5,400	15	5
Capital expenditure	1,100	11	7
Nett "normal " expenditure	4,300	3	10
Nett cost per ton		7	3.2
Nett cost per 1,000 houses	394	10	3.3
Nett cost per 1,000 persons	109	9	7

Disposal.

Including salvage.

Gross expenditure	1,157	15	8
Gross income	1,389	10	3
Nett profit	231	14	7

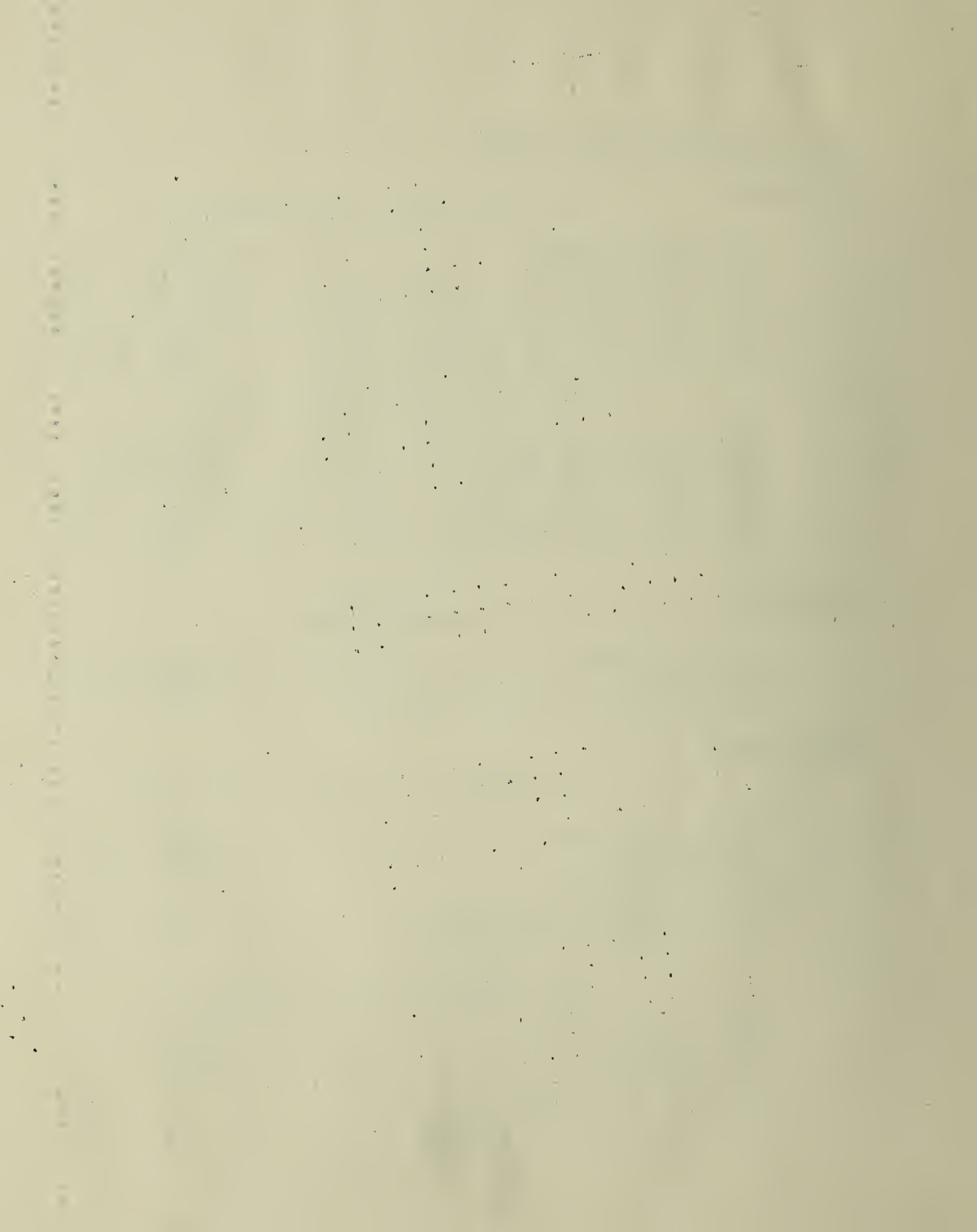
TOTAL COSTS.

(a) Including capital expenditure.

Gross expenditure	6,562	2	9
Gross income	1,393	1	11
Nett expenditure	5,169	0	10
Nett cost per ton		8	8.8
Nett Cost per 1,000 houses	474	4	5.7
Nett cost per 1,000 persons	141	12	4.2

(b) Excluding capital expenditure.

Gross expenditure	5,457	19	6
Gross Income	1,393	1	11
Nett expenditure	4,064	17	7
Nett cost per ton		6	10.5
Nett cost per 1,000 houses	373	3	11.9
Nett cost per 1,000 persons	111	8	8.9



Other Inspections.

It was only found possible during the year to visit factories, bakehouses, offensive trades etc., either when the necessity arose or when calling in the same part of the district.

Mortuaries.

Under the instructions of the Ministry of Health, mortuaries for the reception of persons killed in air raids were created. Several buildings were inspected and negotiations were undertaken for their use, but finally two buildings were decided upon.

Plans, specifications and estimates were submitted to the Ministry and finally approval was obtained.

The work was carried out satisfactorily, and it is a matter for regret that such buildings were needed for the reception of the dead in November.

The working of the arrangements made, inside the mortuaries and with staffs for them, were satisfactory.

Billeting.

During the early and middle parts of the year, some small numbers were billeted under the provisions of circular 2170 and its complementary additions, and a survey of the district was taken to ensure that all available accommodation was known and registered, should the need for its use arise.

In early November, mothers and children were evacuated from London and were received into the district. It was unfortunate that their arrival here coincided with the increased intensity of enemy night bombardment, and very considerably trouble was experienced by the nervousness of numbers of the evacuees. This state of affairs was very much worsened when a Rest Centre filled with evacuees who had arrived only three hours earlier, was hit and penetrated by an incendiary bomb.

During the days which followed several families declared their unwillingness to stay and subsequently left the district.

Large numbers of people then began to be billeted from areas specified in circular 2170 and its various additions until at the end of the year accommodation was beginning to be strained; in addition unspecified numbers made private arrangements without applying for billeting allowances so that accommodation is now extremely difficult to obtain.

Once again I must record my appreciation of the very fine co-operation and helpfulness of the Womens' Voluntary Service who did their utmost to help in any way possible.

NUMERICAL SUMMARY FOR 1939.

Infectious Disease.

Number of houses and schools disinfected after notifiable disease	35
Lots of bedding, clothing, etc., disinfected	29

Houses.

Houses inspected: General inspections	67
Houses recorded under Housing Regulations	10
Number recorded as unfit for human habitation	1
Number of houses demolished	Nil
Number of notices issued under Section 9	Nil
Dirty houses dealt with	6
Yards paved or re-paved	3
Cases of overcrowding abated	Nil

Moveable dwellings, Caravans, etc.

Number observed	12
Ordered to be removed from unlicensed premises	4

House Drainage.

Number laid or relaid, trapped, ventilated or repaired ..	13
Number of obstructed drains dealt with	212
Number of house drains tested	3
Number of insanitary W. Cs. sinks and urinals rectified..	6

Waterclosets.

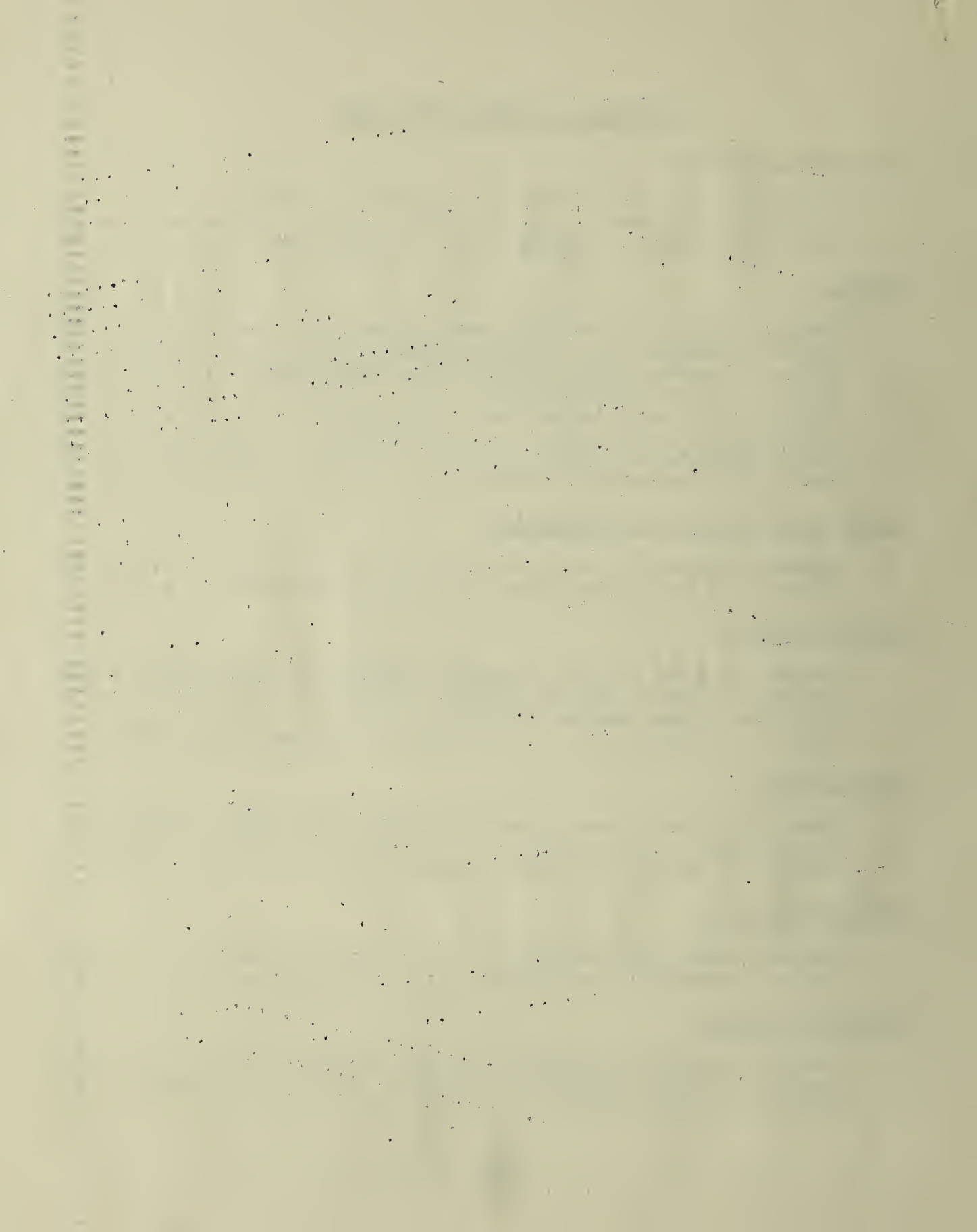
Number of slop closets converted into W.Cs. with a fresh water flush	2
Number of defective W.Cs. remedied	6

Offensive Trades.

Number under observation	2
Number improperly conducted	Nil

Slaughter Houses.

Number licenced (private)	13
Number of contraventions of byelaws or defects found . .	Nil
Number of Inspections	44



Milk and Dairies.

Number of dairies registered in the area	35
Total number of retailers in the district	122
Number of licences under Milk (Special Designation) Order	11
Approximate number of milking cows in the district ,	225

Lodging Houses.

Number on register	1
Number of inspections	2

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act.

Cases dealt with	2
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Nuisances arising from Domestic Animals.

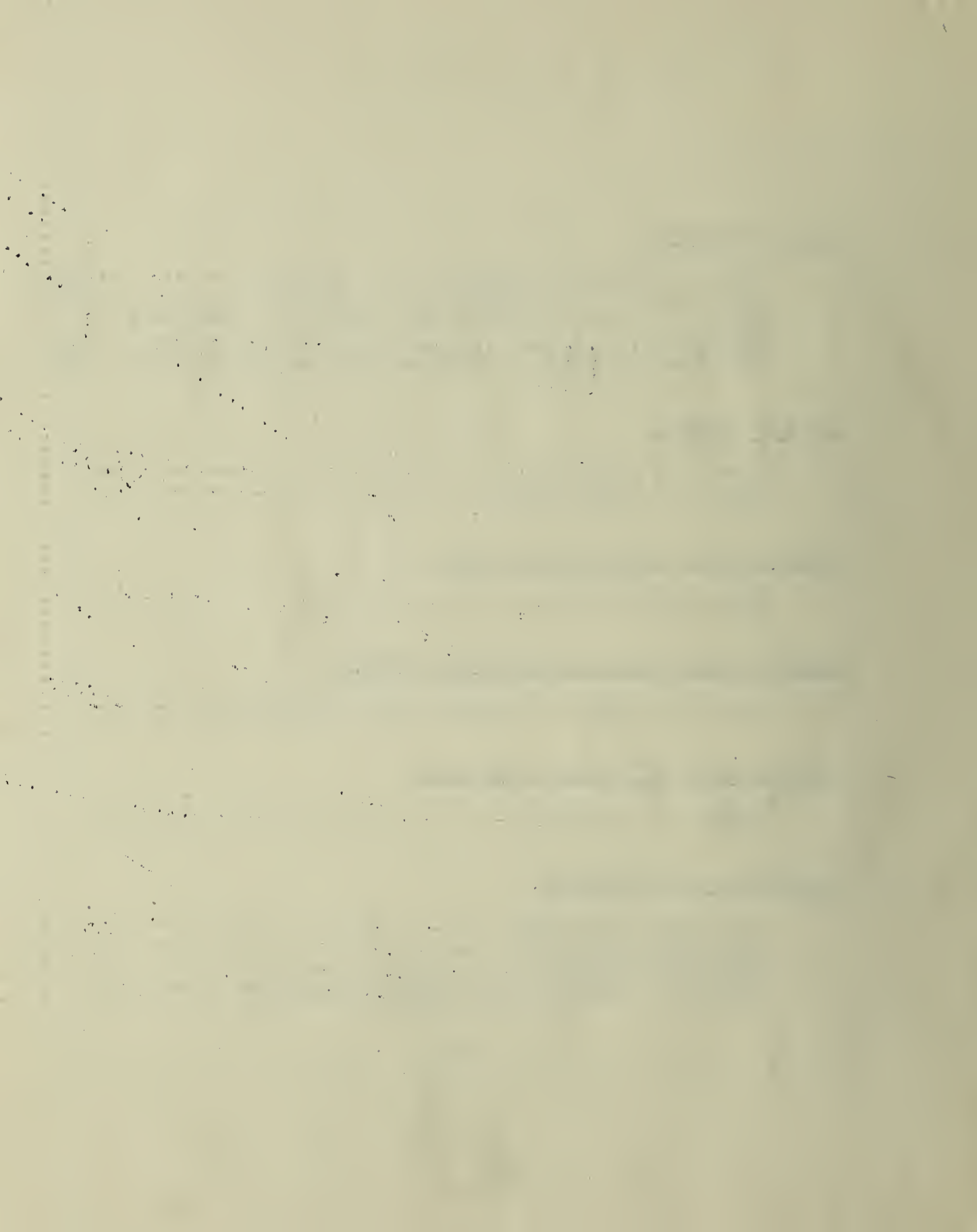
Number of cases of removal after inspection	5
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Accumulation of Offensive Refuse.

Number of removals	1
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Factories and Workshops.

Factories inspected	5
Workshops inspected	1
Nuisances observed	3
Nuisances remedied (including outstanding from 1939.	4



NUMBER AND NATURE OF INSPECTIONS MADE BY THE
SANITARY INSPECTORS DURING
1940.

NATURE.	PRIMARY VISITS.	RE-VISITS.
Infectious Disease Prevention	64	8
Houses (Housing Act, 1936)	4	135
Ashpits	1	-
Dustbins	4	-
Tents, Vans and Sheds	2	10
Drains	16	18
Slaughterhouse (Meat Inspection)	44	-
Offensive Trades	2	-
Factory and Workshops	6	3
Food Premises	16	-
Houses	2	-
Dirty Houses	18	67
Bakehouses	2	4
Dairies and Cowsheds	2	-
Petroleum Stores	11	2
Keeping of Animals	5	3
Smoke	19	-
Yards and Passages	3	1
Offensive Accumulations	2	2
Water Closets	6	4
Verminous Houses	8	8
Miscellaneous	4	-
Refuse Disposal Tips	28	150
Shops Acts	18	-
Interviews	29	-
Houses (Housing Act, 1936) Measurements of		
Overcrowding	1	-
Schools	1	-
Cinemas, Theatres, Public Halls	3	2
Markets and Fairs	1	-
Milk Sampling	3	-
Other Sampling	2	-
A.R.P. Mortuaries	33	-
Salvage	28	-
Billeting	137	-
Air Raid Shelters	20	-
Railways.	2	-
Military Headquarters	4	-
	551	419

